The balance will be met through imports for which necessary arrangements have been made.

Bio-fertilisers being only supplementary source, will not reduce the requirements of different types of fertilisers.

Diversion of land from sugarcane cultivation

*173. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the sugarcane cultivators have been diverting from sugarcane to. other crops because the support price for sugarcane has been unremunerative; and

(b) if so, what was the area under sugarcane cultivation and the sugarcane, production during the Inst three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BUTA SINGH); (a) The long-term trend (1967-68 to 1984-85) in the area under sugarcane cultivation indicates a steady growth rate of 1.81 per cent per annum. Area under sugarcane crop has declined marginally by 0.3 million ha. and 0.1 million ha. during the years 1983-84 and 1984-85 respectively which is not an unusual phenomenon. This does not also mean any diversion of area under sugarcane *to other* crops whatsoever. Government fixes the statutory minimum price for sugarcane taking into consideration, among other things, the cost of cultivation plus a reasonable margin of profit for the sugarcane growers. In the circumstances, the marginal decline observed during the recent years cannot be attributed to unremunera-tiveness of the price received by the sugarcane farmers.

(b) The area and production of sugarcane ci ;r:ng the last three years are as under:—

Year			Area (Million ha.)	Production (Million tonnes in cane)
1982-83	.	.	3·4	189·5
1983-84	.	.	3·1	174·1
1984-85	.	.	3·0	173·6

Drought situation in Andhra Pradesh

•174. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Andhra Pradesh was adversely affected by drought recently;

(b) if so. what are the details thereof;

(c) what is the amount of central aid given to tackle drought in that State; and

(d) whether Government propose *to* evolve permanent measures to check the occurrence of drought in the State, if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) During the South West monsoon (June—September) 1985, rains in certain parts of Andhra Pradesh were deficient and uneven. This resulted in drought situation in these parts of the State.

(b) According to the Memorandum submitted by the State Government on 5th October 1985. 34.62 lakh persons, 18.70 lakh hectares of cropped area and 63.03 lakh cattle population covering 19 districts of the State were ted.